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July 9, 1980
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July 17, 1980
Date

Oral History Interview

with

HELEN PRATT

July 2, 1979
Abbeville, South Carolina

by Marie Allen

For the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library

Allen: Miss Pratt has just handed me a magazine of . . .

Pratt: . . . it's just an old Indian Seminole and it's so old it about to wear out.

Allen: . . . from the Index Journal which is published, I guess in Greensboro?

Pratt: No, Greenwood.

Allen: Greenwood, for March 18, 1944, and in it there is . . . a lot about the Pratt family. John Pratt, Captain James Pratt.

Pratt: Captain James Pratt was my father.

Allen: Okay. Now, you were telling me a minute ago about your father's father and mother. Could you start with them?

Pratt: Well, they were both there.

Allen: That was . . . John Pratt, brother of Robert Pratt.

Pratt: Now does it say "married Mary."

Allen: Married Mary Kay.

Pratt: Well now, that's my grandmother.

Allen: Mary Kay was your grandmother and John Pratt was your grandfather.

Pratt: Yes.

Allen: Where did they live? Did they live in this area?

Pratt: They lived up in the Due West section and the old house was back in the roads there. My father took me to it one time, but we went back again. Now someone has asked me in this letter where they were buried and they were buried at Lindsay graveyard up there. My nephew from Georgia come up here and we went up there and we tried everywhere to find those folks but we never did find them. The Lindsay graveyard up here between here and Due West.

- Allen: Now who was buried in the Lindsay graveyard? Was that John and Mary Kay?
- Pratt: No, they were buried at Little River, as well as I know.
- Allen: Is that a church or a town?
- Pratt: No. Little River was a church.
- Allen: A Methodist church?
- Pratt: A Baptist church.
- Allen: What was it near? What town was it in? Was it out in the country?
- Pratt: It was out in the country, yes, out from Due West.
- Allen: And that's where John and Mary Kay were buried.
- Pratt: I think they were buried there, but my father's first wife and second wife were buried at the Lindsay, at the Lindsay graveyard.
- Allen: Oh! Now I understand. What did your grandfather do? Was he a farmer?
- Pratt: I don't know what my grandfather did. I think he farmed. I'm not sure. It doesn't tell in there?
- Allen: No, it doesn't tell what he did. Where was your father born—Captain James Pratt?
- Pratt: Where was he born? I reckon he was born out at that old homeplace, out from Due West, out from that Lindsay graveyard, that old homeplace back down in there. Now, I reckon that's where Papa was buried. I don't know.
- Allen: Do you remember what road the old homeplace was on?
- Pratt: My grandfather's old homeplace was off in the country there, it wasn't on the road.
- Allen: Did it burn down?
- Pratt: Oh, I don't know what happened to it.
- Allen: You don't remember . . . ?
- Pratt: No, but I know the last time we went there we couldn't find anything so, I don't know.
- Allen: Describe your father to me.
- Pratt: Well, my father was a farmer! That's what he was, but he was in the Confederate war.

Allen: He was!

Pratt: That's where he got to be Captain Pratt.

Allen: Now, what unit did he serve in, do you know? Did he serve from South Carolina, in a South Carolina regiment?

Pratt: He served from, I reckon, from Abbeville, South Carolina.

Allen: Was he wounded?

Pratt: No. Papa wasn't. No, he wasn't hurt. He was Robert E. Lee's, one of his soldiers. Papa loved Lee.

Allen: Did he ever meet Lee? Do you know if he ever saw General Lee?

Pratt: Oh, I don't know about that now! I can't . . . I never did see any of them.

Allen: Do you remember him talking about being in the Civil War?

Pratt: Oh yes.

Allen: What would he tell you about it?

Pratt: Well, I don't know. (Laughter) I don't know what all he'd say about it. But he was a soldier in the Confederate War. That's all I know. But now you see, Papa was married three times and I'm the baby of the last wife.

Allen: Who was his first wife?

Pratt: His first wife was Sophronia Cowan. It tells on there.

Allen: Okay, here is Sophronia Cowan. They had a number of children, didn't they? Nina was one of their children, wasn't she?

Pratt: Yes. Nina and Lula; it goes on and tells you who they were.

Allen: Yes, Cowan. Is it Cow'an or Co'wan?

Pratt: Cow'an. It was Cowan from Due West. She was Sophronia Cowan.

Allen: And James and Lula and Nina.

Pratt: Yes.

Allen: And then what happened to Sophronia. Did she die of a disease?

Pratt: I don't know. I reckon she just died. There was a little piece I found tells that too. I found some other little things about it. I don't think I brought them in here.

Allen: Were they here?

Pratt: Yes. This is them. No that's when Carter went to his uncle's funeral and that's Carter's little girl, she was so proud of being in a Carter home county to attend a funeral. And this finds something about the Carter's ancestry.

Allen: Yes. This is an article that was in . . . which newspaper was this in? Do you know?

Pratt: That's the one and it tells there when Sophronia Cowan died.

Allen: It says here that 18 Erskine college students studying architecture under Dr. William Kuykendall recovered artifacts during January behind the 19th century home where President Jimmy Carter's great grandmother was reared. Dr. Kuykendall, professor of religion and archaeology at Ekskine, who lived just outside of Due West, lives with his family in the old Cowan house, where the artifacts were found. It is one of the oldest remaining houses in Abbeville County. The President's great grandmother, Sophronia Cowan, was born here in 1835 to Captain and Mrs. John Cowan, who lived in the time period 1805 to 1874. Sophronia was married to James Pratt and a daughter Nina was born to them. Sophronia died in 1865. James Pratt remarried and moved to Georgia.

Pratt: And that's when he married the second time.

Allen: There Nina Pratt met and married William Archibold Carter. You mean that Captain Pratt after the death of his wife Sophronia took the children and moved to Georgia?

Pratt: He married a woman from Clarks Hill.

Allen: Clarks Hill, Georgia?

Pratt: Clarks Hill, Sharpton. She was a Sharpton, Susan Sharpton, his second wife.

Allen: And he met her in Georgia? I didn't know he lived in Georgia.

Pratt: He went to Georgia a while. He lived here most all of his life, because you see he come back here and that's when he married my mother. And my mother was Dr. Mabry's widow. See my family is just all mixed up!

Allen: When your father went to Georgia, where did he live while he was down there? Do you remember?

Pratt: Well, I don't know where he lived then, but my sister, Nina, lived at Plains, Georgia.

Allen: Okay. What happened to his second wife? Do you know what she died of?

Pratt: She died; I don't know anything about it. I don't know where. I haven't got anything about her death.

Allen: And her name was Susan Sharpton?

Pratt: She was Susan Sharpton. Yes.

Allen: And then your father came back here and married your mother?

Pratt: Yes, and she was the widow of Dr. James Mabry.

Allen: And she lived here in Abbeville?

Pratt: And Dr. Mabry is the one that bought the home where my mother was living when she married my father and it's the old home over here on the Greenwood Highway.

Allen: And your mother's name was what?

Pratt: Julia, Julia Keller.

Allen: Spell that maiden name.

Pratt: K-E-L-L-E-R. Keller. She was Julia Keller before she married Dr. Mabry.

Allen: Did she have any children by the marriage to Dr. Mabry?

Pratt: Two: Mrs. Mary Lomax, that lived there still on this same road, and my brother Lucien Mabry, and he was killed in Abbeville.

Allen: He was killed in Abbeville?

Pratt: You might have heard of old John Lion killed a Mabry man?

Allen: No.

Pratt: Killed him right in front of the old grade school building, that was my half brother. All of them were my half-folks.

Allen: And were you the only child of Julia and Captain Pratt?

Pratt: What?

Allen: Were you the only child of Captain Pratt's marriage to Julia?

Pratt: The last marriage. I'm the only child of the last marriage.

Allen: How old was your father when you were born?

Pratt: When I was born, I don't know.

Allen: He had had a number of children before you were born.

Pratt: Oh yes. He had lots of kids. See he had . . .

Allen: How many did he have?

Pratt: It tells there.

Allen: Well, let's count them up. (Reading from newspaper clipping.) He was married three times; he was married first to Sophronia Cowan and they had the following children: Cowan, James, Lula, and Nina. Captain James Pratt married second, Susan Sharpton, and they had the following children: Jefferson, Carrie, and Mary Pratt. Captain James Pratt married third, Julia Mabry and they had one child, Helen Pratt. And that's you!

Pratt: That's me!

Allen: Now, this other account I have mentions somebody called "Jeff." I don't see . . . well, Jefferson. Yes, there's a Jefferson.

Pratt: Jefferson. We called him "Jeff." And he was my favorite brother. Oh, I loved him, but after he married he went off somewhere down in Georgia somewhere and his wife didn't let us know a thing. When I got an account of his death it said he didn't have but one sister when he had all these other sisters. So, that just made it all bad too. You all are finding out a whole lot of things about things. I don't know whether I'm telling you every-
thing like you all have in mind.

Allen: Well, we're just interested in what your memories are.

Pratt: What?

Allen: We're just interested in what you remember about your father, because you're the only one who remembers Captain Pratt.

Pratt: Yes. And this is his diary. And a man from Columbia wanted that diary and wanted to take it down there and put it somewhere down there in a library or something. I said "No Sir, you won't. Cause as long as I live in that house I'm going to have my daddy's diaries." But Papa died in 1911.

Allen: How old was he when he died?

Pratt: He died. Papa was . . . I think he was born in 1930.

Allen: In 1830?

Pratt: 1830, I mean. He was born in 1830.

Allen: Okay. So if you were born in 1887 . . .

Pratt: I was born in 1887.

Allen: Then he was about 57 years old when you were born.

Pratt: I think so. I don't know.

Allen: He was up in age then when you were born. How did your father look, was he a tall man or a short man?

Pratt: No. He was just a medium sized man. I have his picture right there. That's his picture.

Allen: And who is this? Is this your mother?

Pratt: That's my mother.

Allen: And this is you?

Pratt: And that's him. And that's Jimmy Carter's grandmother right over there. This is my mother too, sitting out in that swing /

Allen: This is Nina Pratt?

Pratt: That's Nina Pratt.

Allen: And this is you and your mother. Your father has a full beard here. Was it a white beard or a gray beard?

Pratt: He had a gray beard, yes.

Allen: A gray beard. And he had thinning hair on top. He didn't have a lot of hair, did he?

Pratt: No, not too much, but he parted it on the top.

Allen: What color eyes did he have, do you remember that?

Pratt: I think he had blue eyes.

Allen: What kind of personality had he? Was he a man that was kind of quiet?

Pratt: Some people said he was kind of mean, and other people . . . His hands had to work, like he told them to work. They did what you said do then and if they came up late in the morning and he had fed the mules and everything for them to go to work, if they were later then he wanted them to go he'd say "Put the mules back and wait until dinner time, it's too late to work now."

Allen: How many hands did he have?

Pratt: I get the name of being a mean woman too.

Allen: You do?

Allen: Was your father firm with you when you were growing up? Was he a stern father?

Pratt: Well, in a way, yes ma'am. That brother, Cowan, you see down there (Sophronia Pratt's son Cowan) he went out West. Some of them told me (I was just a little child, of course, but somebody told me) that he went because he got mad with Papa. And one day I told Mama "I don't blame Brother Cowan, I'd have gone too." So I said "Tell him it's still a hard time."

Allen: Do you remember what his hobbies were? What did he do to relax? Read?

Pratt: Just farming. He was just a farmer.

Allen: Did he read many books?

Pratt: Oh, no. He didn't read books but he took the papers and things like that, you know.

Allen: What kind of politics did he have? Do you remember what political or religious beliefs he had? Was he a Baptist or a Methodist?

Pratt: He was a Baptist. My mother was a Methodist.

Allen: Was your father a pretty faithful churchgoer?

Pratt: Yes and he'd take Mama to her church just like he'd go to his own church, too. He wasn't bad, that way, and in his diary, he'd tell about going out to Mama's church and he'd tell about going to the other churches and things like that.

Allen: Can I look in one of the diaries?

Pratt: Oh yes! You can look in some of those books, but look at those big ones down there, I expect you can get more out of them.

Allen: There are five ledger books. At the beginning of this book, it says "Diary beginning 1905, April 10." Well now, he would have been on in age then.

Pratt: That's 1906.

Allen: Let me look back to see if he's got anything about his Civil War days.

Pratt: I've got a little book in yonder where he put my birth.

Allen: Did he keep this diary all his life as far as you know?

Pratt: Oh at night, before he went to bed, that was the last thing he did at night was to write a little bit in that diary.

Allen: Isn't that fascinating! Well aren't you glad he did that, because you've

got these memories that you wouldn't have. "Beginning with the 20th century, this one says.

Pratt: Now that's his handwriting, he did that writing.

Allen: The earliest ones here seem to be in about the 1890's; which one have you got? 1895. The earliest one I have here is 1892.

Pratt: You know back in those days you didn't have books and things like you do now, so he just had to get what he could.

Allen: In the beginning of this book it says "Mary Pratt and Hall Calhoun were married Sunday, January 28th, 1894 at the residence of W. A. Carter . . ."

Pratt: Now that says Mary Kay Pratt, that was my grandmother. That was his mother.

Allen: Well, it looks like this might have been the daughter, because she's married in 1894.

Pratt: Oh! That was his daughter Mary.

Allen: The daughter Mary Pratt, married at the residence of W. A. Carter in Arlington.

Pratt: Oh, yes. Mary Pratt and Hall Calhoun.

Allen: They were married at Billy and Nina Carter's home in . . .

Pratt: In Plains, Georgia.

Allen: . . . Arlington. On January 28th, 1894.

Pratt: And then it says there when Carrie married, that's the one that . . . they were the Sharpton children.

Allen: Well, I wonder if we have something in here, let's look up that date, January 28th, 1894.

Pratt: Every night before he went to bed, he'd write a little bit in there, if there wasn't a thing in the world but to tell about Mama's chickens. I said, "No, nobody's going to get this book." [The diary entries would include such things as] "We took our first chickens off today" or "I killed hogs today . . ."

Allen: January 28th, this would have been when Mary Pratt and Hall Calhoun were married: "Cloudy and cold, do not attend preaching anywhere today. Mary Pratt and Hall Calhoun married." Next day it says "Cloudy and misty, rain a little, not so cold, clear off late in the afternoon, Bob Smith and Will Johnson putting some . . ."

- Pratt: That was a white man and a Negro man that lived on the place.
- Allen: So he must not have gone to the wedding, he must have stayed home.
- Pratt: Oh he, no he didn't see Mary Calhoun married or anything, she married in Georgia.
- Allen: So he must not have traveled down there. What do you remember of your half-brothers and sisters? Did you see Nina frequently?
- Pratt: Sister Nina used to come home nearly every summer. That was Jimmy's grandmother. She'd come home nearly every summer and she told other people there that she couldn't have loved her own mother if she had lived, any more than she did my mother. She always did love Mama and Mama loved her too.
- Allen: What was Nina Pratt like? Describe her to me. Was she a handsome woman?
- Pratt: That's her picture.
- Allen: Yes, you showed me her picture. She's an attractive lady.
- Pratt: Now that was my sister. That's Jimmy Carter's grandmother.
- Allen: What was her personality like? Was she a quiet lady or a talkative, outgoing lady?
- Pratt: I don't know about that. You see, I was just a little girl.
- Allen: Yes. Do you remember her visiting? She came almost every summer then?
- Pratt: Yes. I used to remember when she'd come home and all. I wrote her.
- Allen: How long did she stay when she'd come?
- Pratt: I don't know; she'd stay several weeks or something like that. Papa tells in there sometimes about her coming home and "Nina came, so we met Nina." At Verdery sometimes, or we'd meet her at Hodges and Abbeville and he'd tell about Nina going home and brother Billy would come up here to get her sometimes.
- Allen: Did she bring some of the children with her when she came?
- Pratt: Yes, the children would come sometimes too. They'd tell about coming up there. I was reading a letter this morning from one of the little girls talking about how she used to love to come up home.
- Allen: Do you remember Earl, her son Earl Carter?

Pratt: I remember him just a little bit, not much, but her son Earl was Jimmy's father. Brother Billy was his grandfather. And I don't remember him very much and I don't remember his mother much because I used to go down there sometimes and stay by the week with Sister Nina. It was just at her house, you know, and I was just a little old thing. I wasn't any size. You know I am an old woman now.

Allen: You were about the age of Ethel, weren't you? You were about the age of Nina's daughter, Ethel?

Pratt: Her daughter Ethel? No, her daughter Ethel was older than I was. She was older than I was. Alton is the one that always loved me and that's the one that died just a few years ago. Alton was the one, and he came up here and I was living over yonder at the old homeplace by myself and it's full of cats and everything else over there. Alton came and one of the Negroes told him that I had moved, but he kept on till he found me and that was Alton Carter. That was Jimmy's brother . . .

Allen: . . . his father's brother?

Pratt: Yes. His father's brother.

Allen: Do you remember anything special about your visit to Nina's home? Do you remember what kind of games you played with the children?

Pratt: —No, I don't remember anything about that either.

Allen: Do you remember Billy Carter?

Pratt: Her husband? No, I don't remember him, but of course, I knew him then when I was a little girl.

Allen: Do you remember when he died? When he was shot?

Pratt: No, when my brother . . . now that was my Mama's son, Lucien that was killed.

Allen: I'd love to find [him] in here, in the book, about one of Nina's visits home but I can't find any in 1893. When your father passed away, how old was he? You'd started to figure that up. You said he died in . . .

Pratt: He died in 1911 and was born in 1830.

Allen: 81 years.

Pratt: And that's a picture of Jimmy Carter's little girl and she was so crazy about the country school they had up there at Washington. I found those in the paper and I just cut them out.

Allen: Did your father have a long illness before he died?

Pratt: No. He didn't live too long afterwards.

Allen: Did he have a heart attack?

- Pratt: No. I don't remember just what his trouble was. I don't remember just what it was.
- Allen: And your mother, did she live a good while after your father?
- Pratt: I've forgotten what year. I'd have to look it up to see what year Mama died, but it's on her tombstone and she's buried at Ebenezer Church down on the Greenwood Highway.
- Allen: On the Greenwood Highway?
- Pratt: Yes.
- Allen: From Abbeville towards Greenwood.
- Pratt: My mother's buried at Ebenezer Church and Papa is too. His first two wives were buried at the Lindsay graveyard, up at Due West, and Mama told Brother Jeff (that was one of the last brothers, you know) that's when Papa died, she thought he would want to be buried at Lindsay graveyard but he didn't, he wanted to be right there. Brother Jeff said, "Well, that's where they'll bury him." So he's buried at our church.
- Allen: Ebenezer. Where is the Lindsay graveyard? What's that near? It's out of Due West, is it a church?
- Pratt: It's located on this side of Due West. No, it's just out in the country like and Alton came home and took me up there. We tried everywhere to find those graves but we couldn't find them. We never did find the graves.
- Allen: And that was where Sophronia Cowan was buried.
- Pratt: Yes. That's where Sophronia's buried and that's where Susan's buried. But that's the Lindsay graveyard.
- Allen: Your father was very interested . . . I notice he's very careful about telling what the weather's like, everyday. Was that because he was a farmer and he was concerned about what the weather was doing?
- Pratt: (Laughter)
- Allen: What kind of crops did he raise?
- Pratt: What kind of farmer was he?
- Allen: What crops did he raise?
- Pratt: Oh, he planted crops. We had cotton, cotton, cotton. I said these roads don't look no more like they used to. There was cotton all along that road.
- Allen: That was his primary [crop]; he raised mostly cotton?

Pratt: Yes. Cotton and corn. They planted corn down in the bottoms on creeks.

Allen: These entries say "hard freeze last night. 10 a.m. and not much thaw;" "white frost," this is on March 27th and 28th, 1894.

Pratt: And he put that frost down everytime and he'd tell when there was ice or not. They laught at me now about it but I get his diary out and sit it down here and read it sometimes, just to see what he was doing.

Allen: I would like to find a way in which I could copy these, Xerox them. Do you know if there is a Xerox machine in Abbeville? I wonder if the library has one?

Pratt: I don't know.

Allen: Would you permit me, Miss Pratt, to take these downtown and Xerox them?

Pratt: What?

Allen: Would you permit me to Xerox these or would you rather that I just didn't carry them away at all?

Pratt: No. I don't want them carried away.

Allen: Okay. I won't do it then. At some point, I would like to get a copy of them. And maybe I can think of another way to do it. I'd like to have a Xerox machine so I could just copy them, so we'd have a copy for the Library. What I'm working for is that we're going to have a Carter Presidential Library in Georgia and there we'll collect all the Family History information we can find about the Carters and the Pratts and the Smiths and the Murrys, and all of those, and if you ever would like to put these books in a place where they will be kept forever . . .

Pratt: I'd give them to the Carters if I gave them to anybody at all because you see they were my favorite ones, but Mrs. Miller and those have charge of everything I've got now. They take care of everything of mine now for me. They even buy my groceries. Of course, I give them a check to get them with, you know, but they get my groceries for me, pay my bills, things like that.

Allen: Well, Miss Pratt, if you would give these to the President, just give them to President Jimmy Carter. . .

Pratt: I don't know whether I'll give them to Jimmy Carter or who I would give them to, but the Carter family is going to get them.

Allen: They if you did that they would be kept permanently in the Library and they would never be hurt. We have ways of treating paper so that the paper doesn't crumble. See how the paper's breaking? See how that's flipping, turning up? In the Library, we'll treat the paper so it doesn't do that. See how it's starting to tear in there, we can fix the papers so it doesn't do that. I notice, now here's an account--John Burton's account, 1915. I see tobacco in here and cotton seed. Did your father chew tobacco?

Pratt: No. He smoked.

Allen: He was a pipe-smoker?

Pratt: He smoked a pipe.

Allen: Well, he must have smoked a lot of it too; there are a lot of accounts for tobacco.

Pratt: No, I never did smoke. I never did smoke at all. I never smoked a cigarette or anything. But my father smoked a pipe, but he didn't chew tobacco.

Allen: "Medicine for babies." What baby would that have been; this is 1915.

Pratt: I don't know.

Allen: It's somebody . . . Gus Burton's account. Would these have been . . .

Pratt: Well, he had a Negro man on the place named Gus Burton and he had one named George Burton.

Allen: "Cotton in warehouse, 1915." The weights and amount of cotton." Account of Paul Evans', for November and December 1915." Here's Farmers Bank of Abbeville County deposit receipt: bales of cotton--399 is the weight, the price 333 1/8, amount of \$132.17. Here's an expense account from August 8th with "Irish potatoes, rib meat, macaroni, cheese, rib meat, lard, rice, bread and flour." More accounts. Now here is Miss Helen Pratt, Farmers Bank of Abbeville, November 26th, 1923, a receipt.

Pratt: When my check comes I put it in the bank. I get a Social Security check.

Allen: Here is "Julia and I attend preaching at Little River Church today."

Pratt: Now Little River was a little church up above Due West and that was Papa's church that he belonged to when he was up that way.

Allen: That's June 19th, 1910, and after church he took dinner at Doctor Carsirles.

Pratt: I don't know.

Allen: Can you read that? "Good congregations in attendance."

Pratt: And then he tells about going to Beulah Church and Beulah Church was a Baptist church, right below Ebenezer.

Allen: He got the weather every day—"clouds passing in the afternoon." These are wonderful old books, I know you treasure them Miss Pratt. This is one for 1907.

Pratt: Now these big books are about the last he kept. He fell one morning and he was going to the barn, I think, and he fell. That was the only

thing I remember about that, but I remember what room he died in and I know the man that was with him and everything like that. But I was just a girl too, you know, when he died.

Allen: Do you remember the funeral?

Pratt: Yes. I remember when he died.

Allen: Did Nina, was Nina able to come up to the funeral?

Pratt: She was buried down at Ebenezer on the Greenwood Highway. You go out this road, just keep right on until you come to the crossroads and you turn at that crossroads and go down that way and you come to the church.

Allen: Now this is 1907, June 4: "Go to Abbeville myself to take Mrs. McAlister home."

Pratt: I have a little magnifying glass over yonder if you want it.

Allen: No, I think I can see it well enough, but I'm not used to his writing, so that I could figure it out. "Deliver the butter, all hands are chafing out cotton." "Wednesday, fair and pleasant afternoon, strong wind." These are wonderful old books. "Sawmill run today." This looks like "Keller, I. A. Keller and wife call on us this afternoon."

Pratt: I. A. Keller was my mother's brother.

Allen: "No weather for business on the farm. Farm work going badly for this time of year, but not for the cold, wet weather." He must have been here frequently, here's I. A. Keller's name again, "call on us today." Now here's "Go myself with Helen to take her and deliver the butter and eggs and do some shopping." Did you take music lessons?

Pratt: What?

Allen: Did you take music lessons?

Pratt: Yes.

Allen: Looks like here he was taking you to your music lessons.

Pratt: I took music in Abbeville.

Allen: "Take Helen to recite her music," it says here, "and to hear the W. L. candidate for Senate speak." Now this was July 17, 1908:

Pratt: Now this has James E. Pratt, his name was just James Pratt; it wasn't any "E" in it. He didn't have any initial at all, just James Pratt.

Allen: He got the "Captain" from serving in the Confederate War?

Pratt: Yes.

Allen: I was reading here that he "delivered eggs, took Helen to recite her music and to hear the W. L. candidate for Senate speak. Have a good crowd, some 500 or more to hear them." This was a political speech he heard; He didn't say what he thought about it. Let's see if we covered those questions I sent you.

Pratt: Those are the questions you want answered?

Allen: I think we've covered all of them.

Pratt: I think he was born at that homeplace up there at Due West. But it was an old home out in the country like. He carried me up to his father's house. And his father was Robert Pratt and his mother was Mary Kay Pratt. That's the way it was.

Allen: Here's a little note in here about Sister Carrie, your half-sister Carrie married J. A. Marshall, April 14, 1907, at Addie Sharpton's place at Clarks Hill. Sister Carrie married Doctor Jawers, December 11, 1895; he died September 1, 1897. I'd love to find something in here about . . .

Pratt: Now I didn't know Sophronia Cowan Pratt, of course. I didn't know anything about her.

Allen: Because you weren't around then!

Pratt: She was his first wife, you see and I was the last one.

Allen: Do you remember anything about where she came from? He met her in this area, so she must have lived at Abbeville.

Pratt: No. They lived at Due West. I've got a little old thing, that thing that showed where those (people were) digging up the ground. It tells where it was--out from Due West.

Allen: He took you to recite your music very frequently. Here it is again.

Pratt: Every week.

Allen: Every week. "March 1909, the 5th, cool afternoon. Go to Abbeville myself to deliver butter and take Helen to recite her music. Plant radish, some mustard and cabbage seeds and lettuce; one plow. Saturday, cloudy . . . "

Pratt: How often did I see Nina Pratt Carter? I'd see her nearly every summer and sometimes I'd go home with her and stay about a week to--Plains, Georgia.

Allen: And do you remember anything special you did down in Plains, when you went down there?

Pratt: No. All those children--Jimmy was just a little boy when I was down there, but you see he got to be a big old farmer after that and so, I don't know.

And I think Papa just died from natural causes, I don't think there was

anything special. Because I never did know him to have any special sickness. And that's my mother. And that's Jimmy's grandmother and that's my mother and that's me and that's my father. (looking at photograph).

Are you the one that called me?

Allen: Yes. Now I didn't call you this morning, that was someone different, but I called last week. Don't you remember I called you and then you told me I ought to come see you?

Pratt: Someone called me this morning and told me they'd be here at 2 o'clock.

Allen: 2:30. That was my office but then I couldn't find you. I got to town and I went to the police station to see if they could help me find you and I was downtown looking for you for a while.

Pratt: Well, you see, I don't live in town, I live out here.

Allen: And I couldn't find good directions on how to get out here; so I had to go ask. I talked to the police station, they didn't know, so then I talked to Polly Smith at the Development Board and she's the one who called you again . . .

Pratt: Who did?

Allen: Polly Smith, wasn't that her name, Polly Smith?

Pratt: I don't know what her name was.

Allen: Works at the courthouse?

Pratt: I don't know her.

Allen: And she called you and she know the roads and she told us how to get out here.

Pratt: Well, anyway, whoever called me this morning. I mean, called yesterday, told me they'd be here today at 2 o'clock.

Allen: We were late getting here because we couldn't find it. Thank you! Were there other books besides these five? I notice these five books only go from about the 1890's until 1907 or 1908. Do you have others too?

Pratt: Yes.

Allen: Good.

Pratt: I have some old books back yonder the little books-- and I have the book that he had when my grandfather Pratt died and I have the one that has my birth in it. "Helen Pratt born today." On one page in that little book.

Pratt: Oh, my father was a father.

Allen: That's wonderful. You are the only person who remembers Captain Pratt very well.

Pratt: These people around here, some of them remember him, but don't many people remember.

Allen: And these books are wonderful things to have.

Pratt: But now he didn't buy that home over there, Doctor Mabry bought that home. Doctor Mabry bought that when he and Mama were married and he's the one that owned the home. But Mama was living there, I reckon, when she married Papa, I don't know. I reckon that's where she was living.

Allen: Thank you, Miss Pratt. I guess we'd better get on our way, but thank you for taking the time to answer some questions.

Pratt: Well, I haven't told you very much.

Allen: You've told a lot. We've been talking a long time. Thank you.